

Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

August 11, 2025, Meeting Summary

Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd. 32210

Zoom Meeting ID: 885 0647 5589 Passcode: 864564

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members In-Person: Christina Purdy, Chair; Len Burroughs, MHPA; Bernice Gremer, Fishweir Sheriff Watch; Jenny Watson, CHAPS; Shirley Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace Neighborhood Watch; David Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace Neighborhood Watch; Bruce Tyson, Trinity Ministries; Jacquelyn Woods, Cedar Hills Estates Community Assoc.; Jason Roberts, Jacksonville Sheriff's Watch District 4; Sandy Simpson, Chimney Lake HOA.

CPAC Members Via Zoom: Ernest Surmons, Glenda Meadows HOA; Christopher Ramseyer, WaterMill Master HOA.

Visitors: Rae Walker, Sheriff Watch; Stefanie Jorgensen Walter, Fishweir Neighborhood Watch; Ann Staley, Weconnett; Dennise Cook, Blue Jay Ridge; Chris Jones, Cedar Hill Estate; John Chapman, Freedom @ Arbormill; Elizabeth Reyes, Wesconnett; Caroly Chance-Sangthong, Wesconnett; Jack Bradley, Wesconnett; Fran Heatherington, Wesconnett; JoAnn Prescott, Wesconnett; Dyla Prescott, Wesconnett.

Visitors via Zoom: Darnell Greene, Liberty Square. Shakara Ramseyer.

Staff and Elected Officials: Commander, Eric Redgate, JSO; Kwasi Dingle, JFRD; Lynne Baldwin, JPL; Andy Hetzel, Planning and Development; Derrek Dixon, FDOT; Jared Chemay, MCCD; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office; Kaleigh Shafer, City Planner.

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Purdy called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
2. **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The CPAC approved March, April, May, and June's meeting summaries.
3. **Mayor's Staff Reports:** None
4. **Elected Officials Report:** None
5. **Presentation:** None
6. **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)** – Commander Eric Redgate reported: District 4 continues to be down across all crime categories. Overall, crime was down, including a 30% decrease in murders year to date.
 - A total of seven murders have taken place this year. Last year at this time, ten murders took place. A 6.45% reduction in kidnapping, 47.19% reduction in forcible sex offenses, 28.36% reduction in robbery, 15.24% reduction in aggravated assault, and 3.92% reduction in simple assault.
 - Crimes against property are down 17.84%, arson's down 50%, Burglaries down 24.77%, theft down 10.42%, theft from motor vehicles is down 27.17%, and motor vehicle theft is down 34.75%.
 - Theft from motor vehicles and vehicle burglaries are the trend this month. A total of 29 cars have experienced theft in the last 14 days, and 62 in the previous 30 days, primarily due to vehicles being left unlocked. This will taper off as fall begins and children go back to school. Roughly 87% of the unlocked cars that have experienced theft had a gun stolen from them.
 - City-wide, we are experiencing an issue with an individual by the name of DJ Fathead 904 using Instagram to sell entrance fees to pool parties at community pools that he has no right to hold parties at. JSO is asking the community to watch social media and, if they notice one of these functions advertised, please contact JSO by using the non-emergency number (904) 630-0500 so the party can be stopped. If you are part of a community that is deed-restricted or has an association, you should consider filing a trespass authorization form. The authorization grants JSO the authority to act on your behalf in the common areas. Without the association having to make a complaint. Having the pool rules posted also helps the officers to enforce the rules.
 - He has been researching new ways to address the issues of people riding their e-bikes on the sidewalk. The state statute says that 750 watts or below is considered an e-bike, but it doesn't tell you what is considered if it is above that. The officers have been treating e-bikes with a power output

exceeding 750 watts as motorcycles and issuing citations for offenses such as failure to register a vehicle or operating a motor vehicle on a sidewalk. This is because the statute is unclear on how to handle the e-bike. If the e-bike has a power output of 750 watts or less, it is considered a bicycle, and the same laws that apply to a regular bike will be enforced.

- As a reminder, children under the age of 17 are required to wear a helmet when riding a bike. If a child is stopped and not wearing a helmet, they will be issued a warning and given a pamphlet on where to obtain a free or low-cost helmet. JSO puts on safety fairs that provide this information.

Cmdr. Eric Redgate – (904) 573-3165.

7. Jacksonville Fire and Rescue (JFRD) – Lt. Kwasi Dingle reported:

- From now on, the reports given to the CPACs will be uniform in that each JFRD representative will share the same topic at each CPAC meeting each month. This month's topic is having an escape plan in case of a fire and a hurricane. Tonight's focus was on creating escape plans in the event of a storm, as it is storm season.
- Lt. Dingle provided copies of the 2025-2026 City of Jacksonville Preparedness and Response Guide for attendees. The magazine includes information on items that residents may need in the event of a storm. Residents can also find this information and more by visiting the JaxReady website at <https://www.jaxready.com/>.
- Adults should leave a few minutes early when dropping children off at daycare and school to help prevent rushing and forgetting to remove children from the car, especially with the extreme heat the city has been experiencing. It is easy to forget a small child who isn't making any noise in the back seat of a car if you are preoccupied or not used to dropping that child off.
- Hydration is essential because of the excessive heat Jacksonville has been experiencing this summer. Everyone should hydrate before they feel thirsty, as they are likely already dehydrated. The day before you plan to spend time outdoors or participate in an outdoor activity, drink plenty of water.

Lt. Kwasi Dingle - (904) 763-0170 or KDingle@coj.net.

- 8. Chair's Report:** Christina Purdy reported that she volunteers to be on the Art in Public Places selection panel for the Mural wrap-around project at Lane Wiley Park. There is a total of seven participants led by Kat Wright, Public Art Director of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. The project is scheduled to begin in a couple of months and will feature images of the Florida Scrub Jay. Handouts of the selected design were made available. Chair Purdy reminded CPAC members that the CPAC Chairs will meet with the Mayor in September. Questions and concerns can be sent to Michelle.

9. Staff Reports:

- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – Derek Dixon, Transportation System Manager, District 2 Urban Planning Office, reported:**
 - Phase 1 of widening Old Middleburg Road South is in progress. Construction work at the intersection of Old Middleburg Road and 103rd is scheduled to begin in the second week of August. The first phase will focus on constructing a new median opening and is expected to take approximately three months to complete. Work will also begin at the new entrance to Old Middleburg Road, and it is expected to take three months to complete. Once the median is complete, drainage and installation will begin on the north side of 103rd Street at the new intersection. Currently, no work is being done in the new intersection.
 - Oversized dump trucks coming through a neighborhood are not in FDOT's jurisdiction. This is something that Highway Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement would handle. The link for this department will be sent to Michelle to forward to everyone.
 - Questions can be sent to Michelle, who will forward them to Mr. Dixon to get them answered.
- Derek Dixon - (904) 360-5653 or Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us.
- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) – Lynne Baldwin, Executive Assistant, Library Services I, reported:**
 - The summer program was a success with increased circulation and attendance at programs and activities throughout Jacksonville. The number of reading trackers was up at all locations.
 - The Jax Book Fest returns and will span over two Saturdays at the Main Library, 303 N. Laura St. On Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Free writing and publishing workshops will

be offered. There will be a marketing, publishing, and writing track. On Saturday, September 20, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lit Chat will feature interviews and talks with two #1 New York Times bestselling authors, as well as an opportunity to meet and support over 50 local authors. Additionally, there will be fun giveaways, face painting, and other engaging book-related activities.

- Billy the Reading Therapy Dog will be at the West Branch Library on August 18, 2025, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- The Little Readers Storytime continues on Wednesday mornings at the West Branch and Argyle Branch libraries, and on Monday mornings at Webb Wesconnett Regional Library.
- Children should have or know their parents' or guardians' contact information in case there is an emergency when visiting the library.
- This is her last Southwest CPAC meeting. She has been promoted to Manager for Organizational Development.

Lynne Baldwin - (904) 338-4383 or LBaldwin@coj.net.

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** - Jared Chemay, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported:
 - The Municipal Code Compliance Department enforces ordinance Chapters 518, 656, 741, and 745. Various issues such as unsafe structures, property maintenance issues, abandoned and junk vehicles, litter signs on public right-of-way, addressing requirements, overgrowth of grass, damaged fences, dead or dying trees, Zone setback issues, land use issues, open and vacant structures, commercial maintenance issues, such as potholes on commercial property, and damaged signs on commercial property.
 - To date, 1,912 inspections have been completed, resulting in 9,902 inspections for the year.
 - A proactive enforcement project for the Jacksonville Heights neighborhood was conducted. Due to the number of violations and the size of the neighborhood, the project was split into two phases. Phase 1 was conducted from June 4, 2025, to June 13, 2025. Phase 2 was conducted from July 14, 2025, to July 25, 2025. The project resulted in a total of 505 enforcement cases. The subsequent proactive enforcement is planned for specific multifamily units that have received numerous complaints regarding non-compliant housing standards.
 - The department will also initiate a few corridor projects. The projects will focus on major arterial roads in the area. There have been numerous violations of illegal signs in the city's right-of-way, and the corridor project will enable Municipal Code Compliance Officers to stop, cite, and collect them. Municipal Code Officers will also proactively investigate vacant commercial properties to ensure they do not have a blighting influence on the neighborhood.
 - Citizens are encouraged to use the MyJax app or call 630-CITY (2489) to report an issue or complaint. When using the MyJax app, citizens received updates from the Municipal Code Compliance officer or staff member investigating the issue. State Law SB60 requires the person making the complaint to provide their name and address. There are some exceptions for life-threatening emergencies where the complaint can be investigated without that information.
 - Jared explained that when a complaint is made about a property, the Municipal Code Compliance Officers cannot disclose information about who complained. That person can file a formal public records request to find out who made the complaint. Chapter 119 explains who is exempt from public records disclosure. The public records department will determine whether or not the statute protects the complainant.
 - A citizen asked for clarification regarding 6211 Pernecia Street and the owner clearing trees in December of 2024. The trees still have not been removed from the property. Jared advised that he is aware of the problem; the property owner now has an active land clearing permit. The issue is now under the purview of the Building Inspectors Division to govern the timeframe within which the property owner must complete the clearing. Nothing can be done until the permit has expired or is suspended.

Jared Chemay - (904) 626-0736 or JChemay@coj.net.

10. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee:** Chair Purdy announced that the Southwest CPAC LUZ Subcommittee reviewed seven Land Use and Zoning Applications. The subcommittee presented its recommendation to write a letter of opposition to Ordinance 2025-0515, addressing the community's

concerns, and to Ordinance 2025-0516, due to the need for additional information from the applicant regarding the use of the new zoning category.

- **Ordinance 2025-0515 – Conventional Rezoning – 6210 Pernecia Street:** The applicant seeks to rezone 4.99 acres of land from RR-Acres to RLD-60. A motion was made and seconded to oppose the application and express the concerns raised by residents during the Southwest CPAC's Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee meeting. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.
- **Ordinance 2025-0516 – Conventional Rezoning – 5868 Lenox Avenue:** The applicant seeks to rezone 0.76 acres of land from CO to CCG-1. A motion was made and seconded to oppose the application. The CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.

Andy Hetzel (904) 255-7821 or AHetzel@coj.net.

- **Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission** – Bruce Tyson reported that the TRUE Commission met on Thursday, August 7, 2025, in the Lynn Woods Robert room of City Hall. Ed Kayeen, Director of the Division of Investigations and Homeland Security, spoke on investigations and how they're carried out. The commission inquired about funding for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) and within it. The commission also inquired about JSO's new facility. Illumina Security has already moved into the new location. The 2025-2026 budget was also discussed. The TRUE Commission plans to review certain areas of the proposed budget to determine if there are any areas where it can make recommendations. In the future, the commission plans to focus more on the utilization of the funds that come in. When the minutes for the August meeting are available, he will send them to Michelle, who will then distribute them to everyone.
- **Parks Safety Council (PSC)** – Bruce Tyson reported that the Park Safety Council met on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 11 a.m. in the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan St., 4th Floor Conference Room. The Park Safety Council still lacks a quorum, so it cannot vote on items. However, the council is still meeting and reviewing the safety reports, which list the findings of the various parks inspected by the Park Safety Officer. The council makes recommendations to the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department based on the items in the report.

11. Unfinished Business – None

12. New Business – None

- 13. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report:** Michelle Godwin-Ware announced that Rosemary Wesolowski and Lisa Ransom have both retired. There are now two coordinators in the office until additional staff is hired. There is no set date for CommUniverCity; the Director is looking to refresh the program and publish a Neighborhoods Department Newsletter. CPAC members and attendees will be notified when registration for CommUniverCity opens.
Michelle Godwin-Ware - 904-255-8236 or Michellegw@coj.net.

14. Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements:

- Rae Walker invited CPAC members to attend the Sheriff's Watch meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd.
- Darnell asked via Zoom chat what was done with the benches and playground structures when removed from a park. Bruce Tyson advised that he wasn't sure what happened to the equipment, but he would find out and get back with Michelle with the information. Michelle provided her email address.

15. Adjourn:

Chair Purdy adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: **September 8, 2025, 6:30 p.m.** In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048. A formal email notice will be sent to members.

Next Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee Meeting: **September 8, 2025, 5:30 p.m.** In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048. A formal

email notice will be sent to members.

Summary prepared by Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8236 or michellegw@coj.net.

A copy of the audio recording of this Southwest CPAC meeting is available through a Public Information Request by calling 630-CITY. Details about Public Records can be found on the City's Website: [Public Records](#).

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow (3) three business days' notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted, but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: VM (904) 255-5466, TTY (904) 255-5475, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.